

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
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REPORT

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Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 3 May 1948

SUBJECT

Red Army Maneuvers in the
Schwerin-Wismar Area

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THIS IS UN-EVALUATED INFORMATION FOR THE RESEARCH
USE OF TRAINED INTELLIGENCE ANALYSTS 50X1-HUM

1. On or about 26 January 1948, some major Red Army maneuvers began within the area bounded by Wismar (T-49), Schwerin, Wittenburg (T-25), Zarrentin (T-15), the Demarcation Line, and the Baltic coast. At least four divisions were involved, at least two of which were motorized. The objects of the maneuvers were apparently to practice the deployment of a motorized formation in the attack, cooperation of motorized formations during battle (especially from the signal corps point of view), and the conduct of the defense.
2. The attacking force assembled in the area south of Wismar and around Schwerin, and prepared for an attack to the west or northwest. The opposition was an enemy defensive position located approximately along a line southeast of Boltenhagen (O-20), northwest of Grevesmühlen, northwest of Rehna (T-18), and along the Demarcation Line northeast of Ratzeburg (I-07). The attackers had to reconnoiter, destroy, and break through this defended position with fast motorized and armored units in the direction of Lübeck. The main axis of the advance was along the Schwerin-Gadebusch (T-27)-Rehna-Schönberg (T-18)-Lübeck road. The breakthrough of at least the motorized units had to be planned along this axis.
3. On 28 January 1948, headquarters were established in the following places:
 - a. Overall direction of the maneuvers: Schwerin.
 - b. Attacking force: corps headquarters - Schwerin
armored or motorized division headquarters - Schwerin
unidentified divisional headquarters - Gadebusch
 - c. Defending force: headquarters probably in or near Schönberg
4. Rifle units of the attacking force were observed moving along the Gadebusch-Rehna road. The troops showed excellent battle discipline. Two-thirds of the troops were equipped with machine carbines, one-third with rifles; each section was equipped with an LMG. The weapons and equipment appeared to be well-cared-for. None of the EM appeared older than twenty-five, and none wore battle decorations or campaign badges. Officers, when not accompanying their men, rode in staff cars; none were seen on horseback. Accompanying the advancing riflemen were horse-drawn carts, nearly all of which were filled with straw.

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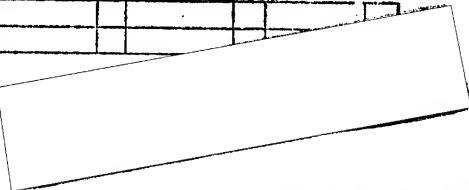
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5. Strikingly strong AA protection was observed, especially along the main axis of advance. Several AA batteries were observed in position. All guns were light (approximately 35 mm.) and similar to the Wehrmacht's 37 mm. piece.
6. The tanks participating in the maneuvers were mainly T-34's mounting long-barrelled guns with muzzle-brakes. Six to ten riflemen sat on each tank. Some Josef Stalin tanks and a small unit of self-propelled guns (122 mm.) on Josef Stalin chassis were observed directly west of Gadebusch. The tanks were parked and camouflaged during the day, and moved only at night.
7. Earthworks were thrown up by the defending force between Rehna and Schönberg. These were all trenches approximately twenty meters long, each of which was manned by a section. Artillery positions were located further to the rear. The defending forces were only of minor importance, and it would appear that the main object of the maneuvers was the execution of the attack.
8. On 20 February, eight rocket projectors, each mounted on a truck and loaded for action, were observed northwest of Gadebusch. The maneuvers were completed on 27 February 1948, and on that date motorized rifle units were observed moving through Crivitz (T-56) in the direction of Parchim (T-74).

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